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(U) Cryptologic Almanac 50th Anniversary Series

(U) A Peek Behind The Scenes: Special Functions In The CCH (Part 2 of 3)

PUBLICATIONS

(U) In late 1954 General Ralph Canine established a professional publication, the *NSA Technical Journal*, to foster the exchange of ideas and create an “intellectual community” within the Agency. The idea had been promoted by Dr. Sydney Jaffe, assistant chief of training; the first chairman of the Journal's Editorial Policy Board was William Friedman. The Journal allowed many NSA personnel to write serious but unofficial articles on work-related topics.

(U) In 1968 senior policymakers concluded that a new publication was needed. The *Technical Journal* would continue, since its highly specialized articles had been of value, but something new, with nontechnical articles, would be added. The new publication was to be called *Cryptologic Spectrum*, its title reflecting the more general range of topics to be included.

(U) After roughly a decade of journalistic activity, in 1981 a decision was made to consolidate the *Technical Journal* and the *Spectrum* into a single publication, to be called *Cryptologic Quarterly*. The reasons for this action were perceived overlapping coverage and the cost of producing two classified publications.

(U) *Cryptologic Quarterly* was published in the Office of Archives and History (T54), which also issued a few histories. When the CCH was formed, the publication function, *Cryptologic Quarterly* included, migrated with the historians to the new organization. Under Executive Editor Barry Carleen, *Cryptologic Quarterly* expanded its coverage to make the journal a professional publication for a larger segment of NSA readership.

(U) In addition, the CCH publications team, as of this writing, has issued about 30 classified and two dozen unclassified history monographs.

SYMPOSIA

(U) NSA's historians had considered a symposium on cryptologic history at least since the

mid-1980s. Henry Schorreck had obtained permission to begin planning for one, and the concept was re-endorsed by the new CCH organization almost as soon as it was formed.

(U) The first symposium, that of 1990, was planned as a singular event; Schorreck believed another might be held sometime in the future if the first were well received. Although cleared individuals from the defense and intelligence communities were invited, the CCH hoped to attract a large number of younger NSA employees, those who had lesser knowledge of their heritage. The 1990 Symposium ran for a full week, on a classified basis, and was spectacularly unsuccessful in drawing attendees, particularly from among the primary target audience.

(U) However, the symposium clicked with the constituent that counted, Admiral Studeman, DIRNSA, asked David Gaddy to hold another the following year. CCH staff, having learned the lessons of the present as well as the past, altered the format for 1991, shortening the event to three days and holding one unclassified day, to which uncleared, outside scholars were invited. This symposium proved more successful in terms of numbers of attendees and content.

(U) One common feature of the first two symposia was an emphasis on SIGINT history related to the 50th anniversary of World War II. Through some mystic bureaucratic process, the CCH found itself committed in its symposia to annual remembrances of the corresponding years of the world war. Although by 1994 and 1995 the annual symposium was drawing large crowds, particularly from outside NSA, the event created a serious personnel strain for a small organization. Therefore, after celebrating V-J Day in 1995, the CCH declared V-S day, and announced a biennial schedule for future symposia.

(U) Symposia were held on schedule thereafter, until 2001, when the conference was canceled due to the terrorist events of September.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

(U) Another of David Gaddy's ideas with far-reaching consequences for the History Center and NSA was the addition of an outside scholar to the CCH's roster on a yearly fellowship. Once approved, this fellowship brought CCH historians into beneficial interaction with scholars from the university world; it helped keep the CCH abreast of current research and trends in academic life. This program, as well, afforded outside scholars an opportunity to observe NSA from a close perspective.

(U) The first scholar-in-residence was Dr. Ralph Weber of Marquette University, who came to the CCH in October 1991. The first two scholars-in-residence were actually given security clearances.

(U) However, Dr. David Kahn, longtime historian of cryptology, was selected for the position. In a courtesy call with the deputy director, he advocating leaving the scholar in an uncleared status, so she or he would not be considered "co-opted" upon return to her/his campus. William Crowell, the D/DIR, accepted the argument, and after that, accommodations were made to allow visiting historians to work with the CCH on unclassified projects.

(U) Scholars-in-residence have been Dr. Ralph Weber, Dr. Colin Burke, Dr. David Kahn, Dr. Carl Boyd, Dr. David Alvarez, and Dr. Rebecca Ratcliff.

ORAL HISTORY

(U) The origins of NSA's Oral History program are lost in the mists of time, but its function was brought into the history program when it was in the Telecommunications Organization, and continued on into the CCH period.

(U) The first Oral Historian was Robert Farley, who persevered from the 1970s until his death in 1992. Although he supported the historians' projects with interviews on a wide variety of subjects, Farley concentrated on people associated with his war, the Pacific Theater in World War II. This turned out to be a wise decision, given the actuarial tables.

(U) Continuing the tradition, Bob's replacement, Charles Baker, also concentrated on his war, Vietnam.

(U) Subsequent Oral Historians, [] and [] expanded the coverage of subjects into many of the technical and support functions at NSA and the SCEs. P.L. 86-36

(U) The current Oral Historian, [] in addition to continuing a vigorous program of interviews, has found himself wrestling with the need to transfer a priceless collection of sound recordings to modern digital media.

(U) The number of potential subjects for oral history interviews has always outstripped the resources available. Only a relative few of America's cryptologic pioneers were interviewed, for example. But despite this, the CCH Oral History Collection is both wide and deep. In terms of chronology, the interviews range from a talk with an intercept operator who worked on the Mexican border in 1917 to the current DIRNSA. When projects were supported, interviews were done with high-level supervisors and desk-level analysts.

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